Public Service.

Distinction in pay between clerks who graduate on first appointment and those who do so subsequent to it.

* 29 Q.—Rao Sahib P. V. GOPALAN: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Government have recently ordered that the grant of graduate allowance contemplated in G.O. No. 1025, Finance, dated 21st January 1922, applies only to clerks who graduate on first appointment;

(*b*) if so, the circumstances that necessitated the issue of such an order;

(*c*) why the Government wish to make a distinction between clerks who graduate on first appointment and those who do so subsequent to it; and

(*d*) whether such clerks will have to refund the allowance already drawn?

A.—(*a*), (*b*) & (*c*) The object of the discretion allowed by G.O. No. 1025, dated 14th October 1921, to heads of departments to give a higher initial pay to graduates appointed to clerical posts is clearly stated in G.O. No. 74, Finance, dated 21st January 1922, namely, to attract where necessary a better class of candidates. It therefore applies solely to those who are graduates when they first enter service, and is restricted to cases where their recruitment is considered necessary.

(*d*) Any cases where a refund has been demanded as a result of a wrong application of the rule will be considered on their merits.

Telephones.

The use of telephones by the Government.

* 30 Q.—Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many telephones are being subscribed for by Government;

(*b*) what is the total cost of these telephone connexions to Government per year;

(*c*) whether the Government enjoy any special rate and if so what is the rate; and

(*d*) whether the Government have made any grants, leases or special facilities to the Madras Telephone Company?

A.—(*a*) This Government have subscribed for about 400 telephones (220 connexions direct with the Madras Telephone Company's Exchange and 180 extensions from some of the direct connexions).

(*b*) The total cost of the connexions is roughly Rs. 55,000 per year.

(*c*) The Government are allowed a reduction of 25 per cent on the rates charged to private subscribers.

(*d*) The Government have assigned an extent of 21,000 square feet of land in R.S. No. 11378, Esplanade, Georgetown, subject to payment of the approximate market value and ground-rent.